

## Message Text

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54

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 /072 W

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R 191703Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3101

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

CONFIDENTIAL PARIS 21025

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, FR

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PARTY ON DEFENSE MATTERS

SUMMARY: INTERVIEWED IN PCF "INTELLECTUAL" WEEKLY

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FRANCE NOUVELLE, PARTY DEFENSE EXPERT LOUIS BAILLOT

-- ARGUED THAT RECENT STATEMENTS BY FRENCH CHIEF OF STAFF MERY AND BY GISCARD ARE "AN ABANDONMENT OF A POLICY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE";  
-- CLAIMED THAT KEY PORTIONS OF THE COUNTRY'S DEFENSE INDUSTRY ARE CONTROLLED BY AMERICAN (AN OLD THEME) AND WEST GERMAN (A NEW ONE) MULTINATIONALS;  
-- CRITICIZED GOF NUCLEAR PRIORITIES, CALLING THEM RESPONSIBLE FOR A DEGRADATION OF FRENCH CONVENTIONAL FORCES. END SUMMARY.

1. AVOIDING THE ISSUE: SINCE FIRST DROPPING A HINT THIS SPRING THAT THE PCF MIGHT BE WILLING TO DROP ITS OPPOSITION TO FRENCH INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR FORCES, BAILLOT HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO STAY OUT OF THE FORCE DE FRAPPE CONTROVERSY. HIS INTERVIEW IN FRANCE NOUVELLE (JULY 19) IS EQUALY CAUTIOUS AND DOES NOT TOUCH ON THE QUESTION. HOWEVER, BAILLOT DOES ARGUE THAT THE "DEGRADATION OF THE CONVENTIONAL ARMY" IS A DIRECT RESULT OF GOF DECISIONS TO ACCORD PRIORITY TO BUILDING UP NUCLEAR FORCES.

2. GISCARD-MERY: IN HIS CLEAREST STATEMENT YET, BAILLOT ARGUES THAT THE TWIN NOTIONS OF FORWARD BATTLE ZONES AND AN ENLARGED SANCTUARY ARE IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO THE CONCEPT OF A NATIONAL DEFENSE LIMITED TO FRENCH SOIL AND CLAIMS THAT THESE GISCARD-MERY INTERPRETATIONS MEAN THAT THE FRENCH ARMY WILL NECESSARILY BE RE-INTEGRATED INTO NATO. PERHAPS EVEN MORE INTERESTING, BAILLOT CITES FORMER GAULLIST HERO ADMIRAL SANGUINETTI AS PARTICIPATING IN THESE OBJECTIONS. BAILLOT ALSO NOTES THAT A FORWARD BATTLE ZONE IMPLIES STATIONING FRENCH PLUTONS IN FRG TERRITORY AND SAYS THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE FRG WOULD PERMIT THIS STATIONING WITHOUT INTEGRATING THE CONTROL FUNCTIONS INTO NATO.

3. COMMENT: BAILLOT HAS PERFORMED TWO INTERESTING OPERATIONS FROM A DOMESTIC POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW. HE HAS CLEARLY AND CONCISELY STATED PCF OBJECTIONS TO GISCARD-MERY AND HE HAS MADE A KIND OF OVERTURE TO THE GAULLISTS. THE FIRST HAS BEEN DONE BEFORE, AS HAS THE

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SECOND, BUT BAILLOT HAS TAKEN MORE OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE GAULLISTS IN ADDING THE FRG MULTINATIONALS TO THE LIST OF THOSE THREATENING FRENCH INDEPENDENCE IN SECURITY MATTERS. WITH THE LEFT WING OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY WOOING THE GAULLISTS, THE PCF MAY HAVE DECIDED THAT IT TOO NEEDED TO RE-OPEN ITS ACT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, COMMUNISTS  
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**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COMMUNIST PARTY ON DEFENSE MATTERS SUMMARY: INTERVIEWED IN PCF "INTELLECTUAL" WEEKLY  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, FR, US, GE, NATO, (Giscard D'ESTAING, VALERY), (BAILLOT, LOUIS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006